

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165323

EXDIS FOR THE AMBASSADOR

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O. CORRECTED TO READ GDS VICE N/A)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF, US

SUBJECT: VORSTER MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT ON NAMIBIA

1. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
DATED JUNE 21 TO PRESIDENT CARTER. BEGIN TEXT: QU
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MR. PRESIDENT, THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF THE 11TH
MAY AND ALSO THE ONE OF THE 27TH MAY, ABOUT SOUTH WEST
AFRICA AND RHODESIA.

2. I PURPOSELY DELAYED REPLYING TO YOU AS I FELT IT
WOULD BE USEFUL FIRST TO HAVE THE DISCUSSIONS WITH
THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES, MEMBERS

OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, IN AN EFFORT TO FIND AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

3. AS YOU WOULD KNOW FROM THE REPORT OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE GROUP, VERY REAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. IN YOUR LETTER YOU REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO CERTAIN IMPORTANT POINTS AT ISSUE, NAMELY THE QUESTIONS OF AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY, THE RELEASE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PLANS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE TERRITORY. I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO INFORM YOU PERSONALLY ON THESE MATTERS.

4. WE HAD IN MIND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY CONSISTING OF 17 MEMBERS WHICH WOULD HAVE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS IN RESPECT OF MATTERS NOT RESERVED TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONTACT GROUP AND, FOLLOWING FURTHER EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH THEM, AS WELL AS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE, WE SAW OUR WAY CLEAR INSTEAD TO NAME A SINGLE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL WHO WOULD CONSTITUTE THE INTERIM AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER THE TERRITORY DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL WOULD BE IMPARTIAL AND NOT EMPLOY ANY POLITICAL GROUPING IN AN INSTITUTIONALIZED
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FASHION. IN CARRYING OUT HIS FUNCTIONS IN REGARD TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, HE WOULD WORK WITH A UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, WHO WOULD AT ALL STAGES HAVE TO BE SATISFIED AS TO THE FAIRNESS OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS. MEASURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NECESSARY LEGAL BASIS FOR THE NEW TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN THE PERSON OF THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL HAVE ALREADY BEEN PASSED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT.

5. IN REGARD TO THE RELEASE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICAN DETAINEES AND 'POLITICAL' PRISONERS, WE UNDERTOOK TO RELEASE DETAINEES PROVIDED THAT SOUTH WEST AFRICANS DETAINED IN OTHER COUNTRIES WERE ALSO RELEASED. BEARING IN MIND THAT POSSIBLY OVER ONE THOUSAND PERSONS ARE HELD BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, SWAPO OUTSIDE SOUTH WEST AFRICA, SOME UNDER THREAT OF SUMMARY EXECUTION, YOU WILL WELL UNDERSTAND HOW STRONGLY RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA FEEL ABOUT THIS MATTER. WE SHARE THESE FEELINGS AND HENCE THE INSISTENCE THAT THEY SHOULD BE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH ANY DETAINEES THAT MAY BE HELD IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

6. WE ALSO AGREED THAT DISPUTES AS TO WHO IS A 'POLITICAL' PRISONER COULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE PANEL OF JURISTS TO BE APPOINTED. WHILE WE RAISED NO OBJECTION TO THE TRANSFER FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA OF SOUTH WEST AFRICANS DETAINED OR IMPRISONED IN THE REPUBLIC, WE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE PRACTICABLE UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF ADEQUATE FACILITIES IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA FOR RECEIVING SUCH PERSONS. WE CONSIDERED IT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE FIVE POWERS WITH RELEVANT INFORMATION ON ALL SOUTH WEST AFRICANS DETAINED OR IMPRISONED.

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7. IT WAS AGREED DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS THAT DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, LAW AND ORDER MUST BE MAINTAINED AND PUBLIC SERVICES CONTINUED. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT IN CONSULTATION WITH THOSE MAINLY CONCERNED, WE WOULD DRAW UP PLANS FOR PHASED TRANSFER OF POWER/ WITHDRAWAL WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE PROGRESSIVELY THROUGHOUT THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BEGINNING WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL. SUBJECT TO WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA MIGHT MAKE FOR THE FUTURE, THE WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE COMPLETED BY INDEPENDENCE. THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE KEPT CLOSELY INFORMED IN ALL PHASES OF THE PLANS. WE RAISED THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENTS AND DEBTS IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND ENQUIRED ABOUT COMPENSATION. WE ALSO NOTED THAT CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVICES ARE HEAVILY SUBSIDISED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND ASKED WHO WOULD MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE WHEN ITS RESPONSIBILITIES CEASED. IT WAS AGREED THAT THESE ISSUES WOULD BE SPELLED OUT IN DRAWING UP OUR PLAN FOR THE PHASED TRANSFER OF POWER/WITHDRAWAL.

8. YOU WILL SEE, THEREFORE, THAT THE STAGE HAS NOW BEEN REACHED WHERE A SOLUTION IS MORE THAN POSSIBLE. WE FROM OUR SIDE HAVE DONE EVERYTHING THAT COULD BE EXPECTED OF US. THE GROUP OF FIVE HAS NOW REPORTED TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE. IT ONLY REMAINS FOR THEM TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO CONVINCE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE MAJORITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS MEMBERS, TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE.

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9. ABOVE ALL WE SHOULD GUARD AGAINST THE POSSIBTLITY
OF EXTREMIST DEMANDS WRECKING THE CHANCES OF A SOLUTION
WHICH IS NOW IN SIGHT.

10. I TOLD THE CONTACT GROUP THAT IF THE OPPORTUNITY
WERE NOT TO BE LOST THERE SHOULD BE NO DRAGGING OF
FEET. I FOR MY PART ENVISAGE THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS
FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WITHIN SIX MONTHS. YOURS
SINCERELY, B.J. VORSTER UNQUOTE. END TEXT. VANCE

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